



Executive Summary

Domestic and sexual violence are crimes of power and control, and they are public health and safety issues occurring in epidemic proportions in our country. One in three Arizona women will be a victim of domestic violence. One in five women will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime. The implications of domestic and sexual violence extend beyond individual families, to workplaces and entire communities. Of particular concern is the negative, long-term impact on the millions of children who witness violence every year.

In 2003, Governor Napolitano charged the Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women with the task of creating a State Plan on Domestic and Sexual Violence. Subcommittees were formed around the following subject areas:

- ⌘ Prevention/Early Intervention
- ⌘ Victim Services/Crisis Response
- ⌘ Criminal Justice
- ⌘ Offender Treatment and Accountability
- ⌘ Sexual Assault
- ⌘ Data Collection

Subcommittee membership was open to the public, and participants included Commissioners as well as individuals with expertise in each subject area from around the state. This document is the result of months of input by more than 150 people. Each subcommittee generated recommendations and submitted those with the highest priority to the Commission.

The State Plan consists of over 50 broad reaching recommendations, including 13 that have been separated into a special Children's Chapter that specifically addresses the needs of children who witness domestic violence.

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The State Plan on Domestic and Sexual Violence: A Guide for Safety and Justice in Arizona

To ensure that the *State Plan* will become reality, the Governor has asked the Commission to prepare for the process of implementation design.

Implementation strategies and action plans will be developed that can be applied to the various parts of the system such as law enforcement, the courts, social services and health care. By working together to implement these recommendations, Arizona will be able to make significant progress towards ending violence against women.

Summary of Arizona State Plan Recommendations for Domestic and Sexual Violence

Prevention/Early Intervention

- ☞ Identify families at risk via points of regular contact (schools, medical, etc)
- ☞ Increase prevention curriculum in education settings
- ☞ Enhance the faith based response
- ☞ Raise public awareness around elder and vulnerable adult abuse
- ☞ Encourage employers to provide public awareness and information to employees
- ☞ Develop a multi-lingual media public awareness campaign

Victim Services

- ☞ Increase availability of family advocacy centers and sexual assault service provider centers statewide
- ☞ Protect victims of domestic violence from eviction
- ☞ Increase civil and criminal legal representation for victims
- ☞ Develop more appropriate services for specialized populations, including immigrant victims
- ☞ Create a forum for discussing systems changes for law enforcement, the courts and judicial responses to domestic and sexual violence
- ☞ Strengthen coordination of SACT (State Agency Coordinating Team)
- ☞ Determine best method of accrediting/licensing domestic violence shelters



- ☞ Promote VAWA's statutes on battered immigrant women
- ☞ Improve coordination of basic needs resources such as Housing, Food Stamps, TANF and SSI
- ☞ Create a uniform, statewide, standardized curriculum for cross disciplinary training

Criminal Justice

- ☞ Identify and document children and vulnerable adults at the scene of domestic violence incidents and assess needs
- ☞ Create cross-disciplinary training, procedures and protocols subcommittee
- ☞ Centralize access to abusers' conditions of release to ensure victim safety
- ☞ Promote knowledge and enforcement of existing stalking laws
- ☞ Standardize procedures statewide for obtaining, enforcing and serving Orders of Protection across jurisdictions
- ☞ Develop procedures, policies and protocols to address the issue of dual arrest

Offender Treatment/Accountability

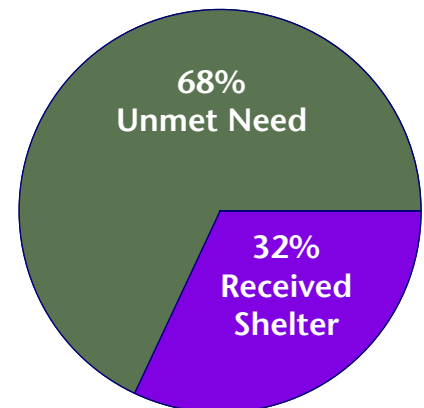
- ☞ Increase access to information on abusers by Law Enforcement, Courts, Probation
- ☞ Create task force to assess and improve offender treatment programs
- ☞ Increase sanctions for non-compliance of court orders
- ☞ Develop guidelines for judges in determining offender treatment
- ☞ Ensure that warrants for non-compliance are served in a timely manner
- ☞ Provide offender treatment to felony offenders while still in prison
- ☞ Support the implementation of the Department of Defense Task Force recommendations on domestic violence at AZ military bases

From July 2001 through June 2002, 27,678 women & children requested shelter in Arizona.

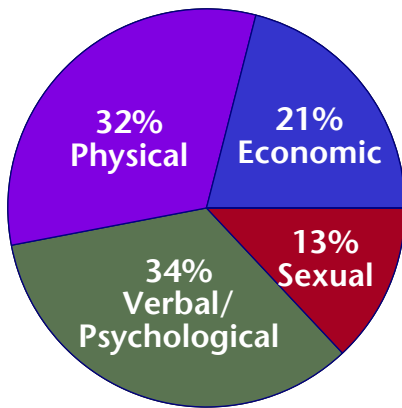
Shelter was available for 32%

Shelter was not available for 68%

Almost 2 out of 3 requests were unmet



Arizona Department of Economic Security & Department of Health Services, July 2001- June 2002



Type of Abuse

- ⌘ 32% Physical
- ⌘ 21% Economic
- ⌘ 34% Verbal/
Psychological
- ⌘ 13% Sexual

Arizona Department of Economic
Security & Department of Health
Services, July 2001- June 2002

Sexual Assault

- ⌘ Increase capacity of the sexual violence community to provide services, promote prevention, conduct trainings, and create public awareness activities statewide
- ⌘ Increase victim access to comprehensive crisis services
- ⌘ Develop a formal training network focused on sexual assault issues
- ⌘ Repeal Spousal Sexual Assault statute from Arizona Revised Statutes
- ⌘ Allow forensic exams for victims who are unsure they want to file a police report
- ⌘ Amend the sex assault statute to include multiple levels of sex assault to increase chances of prosecution
- ⌘ Create sex trafficking task force
- ⌘ Support the military's efforts to respond to allegations of sexual violence and to prevent future abuse
- ⌘ Increase awareness about the incidence of sexual violence on Arizona college campuses and promote appropriate responses

Data Collection

- ⌘ Support continued development of the Court Protective Order Registry (CPOR)
- ⌘ Support local development of the National Incidence Reporting System (NIBRS)
- ⌘ Encourage use of automated case management tools by service providers to increase efficiency in reporting and to assist in identification of gaps in services
- ⌘ Increase prosecution of sex crimes through the Sex Crimes Analysis Network (SCAN) and the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP)
- ⌘ Work with the medical community to enhance data collection on the rate of domestic and sexual violence experienced by their patients

- ⌘ Encourage fatality reviews in each region to improve services and coordination
- ⌘ Support domestic violence service providers inclusion on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) as long as it is safe to do so
- ⌘ Develop and support technology that will allow single data entry for multiple databases

Children Who Witness Domestic Violence

- ⌘ Develop screening and assessment procedures and trainings on responding to domestic violence in the Child Protective System
- ⌘ Create new joint service models in order to respond to families experiencing domestic violence and child maltreatment
- ⌘ Discourage the use of potentially dangerous intervention in cases of domestic violence
- ⌘ Identify best practices for working with battered women who maltreat their children
- ⌘ Create safe visitation and exchange sites
- ⌘ Develop bench book and training for family court judges and personnel
- ⌘ Establish Training standards for custody evaluators
- ⌘ Develop cross trainings on impact of domestic violence on children
- ⌘ Develop a continuum of services to children who witness violence
- ⌘ Promote coordination of law enforcement and schools, day cares, and youth agencies to address the needs of children who have witnessed domestic violence



